

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05222 291216Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 AGRE-00 EB-08 L-03
OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 /084 W
-----001722 291218Z /53
P 270545Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7609
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 5222

DEPT PASS AID AND AGRICULTURE

RABAT FOR AGATT KUHL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, TS
SUBJ: GOT REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT

REF: STATE 166886 (PARA 3), TUNIS 2463, TUNIS A-048,
AND 76 TUNIS A-112

1. (SUMMARY) FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO QUERY IN STATE REFTL, ADDRESSING: (A) STATUS OF PL 480 TITLE I REQUEST, (B) TUNISIAN NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TITLE I ASSISTANCE, AND (C) TIME-FRAME AND THEREFORE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH DELIVERIES ARE NEEDED. BRIEFLY, WHILE IT IS MOOT WHETHER WE ARE FORMALLY FACED WITH GOT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL 100,000 MT--OR ONLY 60,000 MT--FOR BALANCE OF CROP YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, EXTRAORDINARY IMPORT NEEDS ARISING OUT OF DROUGHT CLEARLY JUSTIFY CONSIDERATION OF FULL 100,000 MT FOR DELIVERY LATE THIS YEAR AND EARLY 1978 IF SUCH QUANTITY CAN BE ALLOCATED UNDER TITLE I PROGRAM FOR FY 78. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF CORN AND BARLEY UNDER THIS PROGRAM. (END SUMMARY)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05222 291216Z

2. GOT REQUEST. GOT OFFICIALS ARE NOT PRESSING US FOR EARLY DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF TITLE I, BUT THEY CLEARLY EXPECT THAT WE WILL COME THROUGH WITH MORE WHEAT--AND CORN AND BARLEY IF IT IS AVAILABLE--AS STOCKS RUN DOWN OVER COURSE OF CROP YEAR (THE CEREAL "CAMPAIGN" ENDING JUNE 30, 1978). MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT, ON BASIS OF THEIR MARCH 29 NOTE (TUNIS A-048), THEY ARE ALREADY ON RECORD

AS REQUESTING 100,000 MT OF TITLE I WHEAT FOR THEIR CURRENT JULY 1, 1977 TO JUNE 30, 1978 CROP YEAR ("CAMPAIGN") BEYOND THAT BEING PROVIDED UNDER FORTHCOMING AMENDMENT TO JANUARY 21, 1977 AGREEMENT. (THEY CONSIDER TWO ALLOCATIONS OF 40,000 MT EACH AS MEETING GOT'S SEPTEMBER 23, 1976 REQUEST FOR 80,000 MT UNDER FY 1977 PROGRAM.)

3. HOWEVER, BASED ON TEXT OF GOT'S MARCH NOTE (TUNIS 2205) AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM SINCE THEN, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE QUITE TENABLE FOR US TO MAINTAIN THAT THE TSECOND 40,000 MT ALLOCATION FOR FY 1977 REPRESENTS OUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO DROUGHT PROBLEM (AND CONSEQUENT GRAIN DEFICIT FOR 1977-78 CROP YEAR) POSED TO US IN MARCH, AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE COUNTED TOWARD MEETING GOT REQUEST FOR 100,000 MT. ON THIS BASIS, OUTSTANDING REQUEST BEFORE US WOULD BE FOR BALANCE OF 60,000 MT--PRESUMABLY FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION UNDER FY 78 PROGRAM.

4. THE NEED. REVISED BUT STILL PROVISIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND DATA PROVIDED JULY 21 BY OFFICE OF CEREALS, WHILE INDICATING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN CROP OUTLOOK OVER DISASTER CONTEMPLATED AT END OF MARCH (CROP LOSS NOW ESTIMATED SOMEWHAT BELOW 50 PERCENT), CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT TUNISIA'S NEED FOR ABOUT 750 TO 800,000 MT OF WHEAT IMPORTS THIS CROP YEAR--MUCH MORE THAN USUAL--AND NENCE JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL TITLE I ASSISTANCE.

5. CURRENT TUNISIAN WHEAT HARVEST NOW ESTIMATED AT 500 TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 05222 291216Z

550,000 MT (400,000 TO 450,000 MT OF DURUM, 100,000 MT OF SOFT WHEAT)--AGAINST TOTAL EXPECTED USAGE OF 1,390,000 MT: 1,150,000 MT FOR CONSUMPTION, 140,000 MT FOR SEED AND 100,000 MT FOR CARRY-FORWARD STOCKS.

6. ADJUSTING FOR UNUSUALLY HIGH JULY 1 STOCKS OF 130,000 MT (RUN UP IN ANTICIPATION OF SHORTFALL IN CROP), THIS YEAR'S IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WHEAT NOW APPEAR IN 760 TO 810,000 MT RANGE. COMMERCWAL PURCHASES TO DATE OF 260,000 TONS (80,000 TONS FROM UNITED STATES AND 180,000 TONS FROM TURKEY--BALANCE CONTRACTED FROM TURKEY IS FOR LATER DELIVERY) LEAVE DEFICIT OF 500 TO 550,000 TONS. DELIVERY IN JULY OF 20,000 MT OF OUR ORIGINAL FY 77 ALLOCATION, PLUS ADDITIONAL 40,000 MT ALLOCATION OF FY 77 TITLE I WILL BRING DEFICIT DOWN TO 440 TO 490 THOUSAND TONS. OTHER DONORS' AID MAY WELL REACH 100,000 MT, LEAVING FURTHER 340 TO 390,000 MT TO BE ACQUIRED. ASSUMING WE CAN PROVIDE EMERGENCY 25,000 MT OF TITLE II WHEAT FLOUR (30,000 MT WHEAT EQUIVALENT) UNDER FY 77 AND 78 PROGRAMS (SEE TUNIS 5098), REMAINING GAP WOULD BE 310 TO 360,000 MT. IF WE COULD COVER 100,000 MT UNDER FY 78 TITLE I PROGRAM, THEN TOTAL TUNISIAN COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF WHEAT WOULD BE IN 470 TO 520,000 MT RANGE--ROUGHLY \$60 MILLION CIF AT CURRENT PRICES.

7. BEYOND WHEAT REQUIREMENTS, OFFICE OF CEREALS ESTIMATES IT WILL ALSO HAVE TO IMPORT BETWEEN 200,000 AND 250,000 MT OF BARLEY AND CORN (BARLEY WAS PARTICULARLY HARD HIT BY DROUGHT). WITH COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS ALREADY MADE FOR 15,000 MT OF BARLEY AND 25,000 MT OF CORN FROM UNITED STATES, GOT HAS ASKED US UNOFFICIALLY REGARDING POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF BOTH COARSE GRAINS UNDER TITLE I PROGRAM FOR FY 78. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON THIS QUESTION.

8. TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERIES. DISCUSSIONS WITH CEREALS OFFICE DIRECTOR ZARRAD AND OTHER GOT OFFICIALS HERE MAKE CLEAR GOT DESIRE THAT DELIVERIES BE GEARED TO RUNDOWN OF STOCKS INCLUDING NEW CROP WHEAT. HANDLING, STOCKAGE AND STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TUNIS 05222 291216Z

SUGGEST DECEMBER-JANUARY AS PRIORITY PERIOD FOR DELIVERY.

9. RECOMMENDATION. WHETHER OR NOT GOT HAS PENDING REQUEST FOR FULL 100,000 MT OF TITLE I WHEAT, THERE IS AMPLE NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE--AND WE EXPECT GOT TO ELABORATE ON NEED FOR AT LEAST THIS QUANTITY IN WEEKS BEFORE NEXT U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL IN TUNIS. CONSCIOUS OF OTHER PRIORITY CLAIMANTS ON TITLE I, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND FY 78 ALLOCATION OF 100,000 MT OF WHEAT FOR TUNISIA, WITH AT LEAST 60,000 MT FOR FIRST QUARTER ALLOCATION. MULCAHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, PL 480 TITLE 1
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS05222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-0582
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770712/aaaaajwk.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22fbf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 166886, 77 TUNIS 2463, 77 TUNIS A-48
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1729192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22fbf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009